

winged fruit. He described two species, *P. klotzschii* Chod. and *P. bennettii* Chod. [= *P. albicans* (Bennett) Grondona], both from Brazil. Later, two more Brazilian species were described, *P. pulcherrima* Kuhl. and *P. scleroxylon* Ducke. All four species are trees or shrubs with opposite leaves and persistent leaf bases. Short lateral branches often become spines after the leaves fall. The inflorescences are very short racemes, so that the flowers are fasciculate in leaf axils. The calyx is deciduous and the fruit is conspicuously 2-lobed, each lobe being ovoid and containing a single, pendulous, arillate seed. The leaves are subcoriaceous and have prominent looped secondary veins and irregularly reticulate tertiary veins. *Polygala dukei* shares all these characters except presence of spines and opposite leaves.

Polygala dukei can be easily distinguished from all other Panamanian species by its arborescent

habit, its fasciculate, axillary flowers, and its 2-lobed fruits (Lewis & Herrera-MacBryde 1969).

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A NEW VARIETY OF *DECLIEUXIA CACUMINIS* (RUBIACEAE) FROM BAHIA

Among Raymond M. Harley's Rubiaceae from Bahia, Brazil, are numerous collections of *Declieuxia* H.B.K., of which there are two gatherings of *D. cacuminis*. This species has been previously reported from Minas Gerais (Kirkbride, 1976).

One of these collections, *Harley et al.* 21216 from the Serra Geral de Caitité, is referable to *D. cacuminis* var. *decurrens* Kirkb. which was known only from the type collection and two paratype collections, all from the vicinity of Grão Mogol (Kirkbride, 1976), approximately 350 air-kilometers south-southwest of the new station. In my discussion of the pubescence of var. *decurrens* (Kirkbride, 1976), it was described as less densely puberulous and with longer hairs on the mericarps than var. *cacuminis*. The pubescence of *Harley et al.* 21216 is denser with shorter hairs on the mericarps than the type collections. So the variation of pubescence in var. *decurrens* encompasses that found in var. *cacuminis*.

The other collection represents a new variety, which is presented here:

***Declieuxia cacuminis* Müller Argoviensis var. *glabra* Kirkbride, var. nov.**

Frutex omnino glaber, stipulis trilobis, decurrenti-

bus, corollis caeruleis, fructibus apicis incisura 0–0.4 mm, mericarpis 2.2–2.4 × 2–2.2 mm, ca. 0.6 mm crassis.

TYPUS: Brazil, Bahia, Serra das Almas, middle and upper N.E. slopes of Pico das Almas, ca. 25 km W.N.W. of the Vila do Rio de Contas, ca. 41°57'W, 13°33'S, alt. 1,600–1,850 m, *Harley et al.* 19691 (holotypus, UB; isotypus, CEPEC, K).

The overall appearance of this variety is ericoid, and therefore similar to that of var. *cacuminis*. It is easily separated from the other two varieties by its totally glabrous condition and other details that are set forth in the following key to the varieties of *D. cacuminis*:

- 1a. Shrubs completely glabrous; mericarps with the emargination 0–0.4 mm deep *D. cacuminis* var. *glabra*
- 1b. Shrubs or subshrubs puberulous except the calyx and sometimes the corolla glabrous; mericarps with the emargination 0.5–1 mm deep.
 - 2a. Stipules unidentate or tridentate, not decurrent; corolla blue, externally sparsely puberulous; mericarps 2.2–2.6 × 1.6–1.8 mm, 0.7–0.9 mm thick *D. cacuminis* var. *cacuminis*
 - 2b. Stipules unidentate, decurrent; corolla white, externally glabrous; mericarps 1.5–

2.1 × 0.8–1.1 mm, 0.2–0.4 mm thick ...

..... *D. cacuminis* var. *decurrens*

The varieties of *D. cacuminis* are an example of taxa whose distribution at the highest elevations in the Serra do Espinhaço and further north in Bahia is correlated with their differentiation. These may have resulted from either long distance dispersal and random selection of genotypes or Pleistocene climatic changes with drastic alterations in the distribution of the vegetation and resulting differentiation (Kirkbride, 1976).

In my opinion, the latter is more important in this case and in the genus *Declieuxia*.

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A NEW COMBINATION FOR A PROBLEMATIC CENTRAL AMERICAN APOCYNACEAE

Prestonia woodsoniana (Monachino) A. Gentry, comb. nov. *Echites woodsoniana* Monachino, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 86: 245. 1959. TYPE: Mexico: Michoacán: *Hinton 15325* (holotype, NY, isotype, MO).

Echites parviflora Sesse and Moç., Fl. Mex. 44. 1893. non Roxb. (1832) nec Afz. ex Ettingshausen (1861).

Prestonia caudata Woods. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 47: 79. 1960. TYPE: Costa Rica: Puntarenas: *Holm and Iltis 243* (MO).

This curious plant has an equally curious taxonomic history. Its generic affinities are not at all evident; in fact, it is so unusual in Apocynaceae that I tried to refer unidentified specimens to Asclepiadaceae before I was familiar with the species. The salient characteristics are the caudately elongated corolla lobes, which are densely puberulous above; these unusual lobes and the short corolla tube give the plant a distinctly Asclepiadaceous appearance. Since its best generic assignment is to *Prestonia*, one of the Apocynaceae genera that most closely approaches Asclepiadaceae, it may well be a survivor of the ancestral plexus from which Asclepiadaceae arose.

Presumably Woodson never saw material of *Echites parviflora* Sesse and Moçônio. In his monograph of *Echites* and related genera (Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 23: 169–438. 1936) he listed it as an unassigned rejected species “impossible to interpret.” However, two years later (North American Flora 29: 103–192. 1938) he resurrected it, reproducing the Sesse and Moçônio description, and accepting it in *Echites*. Monachino (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 86: 245–247. 1959) re-

alized that *E. parviflora* Sesse and Moçônio is a later homonym of *E. parviflora* Roxb. as well as of *E. parviflora* Afz. ex Ettingshausen. From the description Monachino recognized the Sesse and Moçônio plant as being conspecific with a plant collected by Hinton in Michoacán and Guerrero, Mexico, and proposed the nomen novum *E. woodsoniana* for it, substituting one of the Hinton collections as type. Meanwhile, Woodson received a Costa Rican collection of the same species and described it as an unusual species of *Prestonia*, noting that its only close relative in *Prestonia* is West Indian *P. agglutinata* (Jacq.) Woods., distinguished by similar narrowly elongate corolla lobes and exappendiculate corolla tube. Unfortunately, Woodson’s description of the Costa Rican plant appeared one year later than Monachino’s of the Mexican one, necessitating the new combination *Prestonia woodsoniana* (Monachino) A. Gentry, if Woodson’s decision to include the species in *Prestonia* is accepted.

This species turns out to be widespread in the dry forest area along the Central American Pacific coast, ranging from Guanacaste and adjacent Puntarenas Province in Costa Rica to Guerrero and Michoacán in Mexico. There are recent collections from both Honduras and Nicaragua, as well as Costa Rica at MO. Unfortunately, the recent collections of *P. woodsoniana* have all been misidentified as *Echites tuxtliensis* Standl., a somewhat similar-looking (except for the much longer corolla tube and non-caudate corolla lobes) species from the Caribbean side of northern Central America and southern Mexico. *Echites*